

**Summary of  
Meeting of the Taunton Bay Advisory Group  
6 PM Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sullivan Town Hall  
Facilitated by Sherman Hoyt**

Advisors present: Slade Moore, Steve Perrin, Frank Dorsey, Shep Erhart, Lee Hudson and John Sowles.

Public members: Barbara Arter, Clifton Doughty, Steve Atherton, Tim Manning, Chip Davison, Heath Hudson, Representative Rob Eaton, Carol Korty and two others.

After introductions, John updated the group on the status of the proposed regulation. Tomorrow, he would be presenting the plan to DMR Advisory Council for approval.

Sherm described the purpose of this evening's meeting as identifying locations of scallop, urchin, mussel and kelp resources so that we can assess population and harvest levels.

Some harvesters present were very upset with the plan. They felt Taunton Bay had been unfairly stolen from them. Others saw an opportunity to improve markets and public perception of Maine's industry if we can do this right. Marine Stewardship Council certification is becoming very popular. More and more, the public is interested in sustainability.

Tonight we want to:

1. Describe and identify the areas within which we need to do an assessment for each of the four species.
2. We need clearly defined (buoyed) areas for harvesters

Aerial photographs were made available for harvesters to mark up showing location of harvestable mussels, scallops, urchins and kelp.

Tim stated that there were 25,000 bushels of mussels, mostly seed. Growth is historically poor.

Frank asked harvesters what research questions they might be interested in. Some responses follow:

- How do life stage issues affect stock assessment? By August first year mussels should be 1/4"
- What is the winter kill of mussels?
- What are specific growth rates of mussels at specific locations?
- Assessment should be done just prior to harvest of seed mussels. Can't be done this time of year since they are too small.
- People were interesting in looking at comparing impacts associated with different drag designs.
- Interest in the Great Eastern Mussel three year mussel rotation experiment in which areas are left alone, others harvested and productivity differences between them.
- How do different boat seed dispersal methods compare (age related survival curves)?

The group agreed that assessments should be “Adaptive” – we may revisit the numbers at any time as information and conditions change.

Harvesters asked about the time frame for this year’s harvest. John said that this plan goes into effect on July 1, at which point, the harvest of scallops, urchins, mussels and kelp will be on hold until a management plan is approved. This prompted some spirited discussion about whether or not the plan will be ready by July 1<sup>st</sup>. John reminded people that all along, he’s been saying that August is probably the earliest the work could get done since we had to see who was interested in harvesting and the deadline, this year, for indicating interest was July 1. Then assessments needed to be done and overlayed with the sensitivity maps. The Harvesters were anxious to have everything in place by July 1 so a meeting of all groups was scheduled for that date. Harvesters volunteered to work with DMR.

How we schedule and advertise the separate harvesters’ meetings was left unresolved.

Next Advisory Group meeting set for June 17 at which a draft of Slade’s ecological elements map will be presented.